

Electricity



Length & Mass



Temperature



Time

<http://www.time.gov/>

Right now, the official U.S. time is:

01:20:13 p.m.

12-hr 24-hr

NIST

**National Institute of
Standards and Technology**
U.S. Department of Commerce

Light



Founded: 1901 as National Bureau of Standards
Campuses: Gaithersburg, MD and Boulder, CO

Indiana Farm Boy to NBS Physicist & Famous/Forgotten Forensic Scientist



Courtesy of Kathy Leser



NARA, RG167-N-7997



NIST Archives

6-22-31 List 8768
 1045 Investment
 Bldg
 Mr. H. H. Mark
 Wiped Claims Commission
 U.S. & Germany
 3 documents Re-Explosion
 (Handwritten by Stein)

64487
 Recd Justice Probi
 5-22-31 Mail
 Jones -
 Case 236-S
 Per CSA JPM
 Bureau N. O. La
 March 25 1931

Dr. Wilmer Souder and the National Bureau of Standards Identification Laboratory (1935)



Ideals for Firearms Identification

Wilmer Souder, *Army and Navy Journal*, March 19, 1932

*Are we learning from history
or are we repeating it?*

There should be adopted:

1. **Minimum standards of equipment** to be used.

OSAC efforts to prepare and promulgate documentary standards (moving very slowly)

2. **Standards for records of evidence** to accompany and substantiate the expert's opinion; these to include photographs, metrological data and interpretations in permanent form.

NCFS Views Document on Report and Case Record Contents (not approved 10 Apr 2017)

3. **Standards for qualification of experts** which will include **actual tests** made against secretly designated materials and reported in compliance with item 2.

PCAST requests for data to support all conclusions made (largely being ignored)

4. **Methods for constant following up [with] experts testifying in court** to guarantee the highest efficiency.

DOJ Forensic Science Discipline Review of FBI examiner testimony (just put on hold)

*85 years later we are
still addressing these
same challenges!*

Coverage of the NCFS Closure

April 10, 2017



Sessions orders Justice Dept. to end forensic science commission, suspend review policy



U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions during the daily briefing March 27. (Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images)

By Spencer S. Hsu April 10

Attorney General Jeff Sessions will end a Justice Department partnership with independent scientists to raise forensic science standards and has suspended an expanded review of FBI testimony across several techniques that have come under question, saying a new strategy will be set by an in-house team of law enforcement advisers.

April 11, 2017

The New York Times

The Opinion Pages | OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Sessions Is Wrong to Take Science Out of Forensic Science

By ERIN E. MURPHY APRIL 11, 2017

Prosecutors [applauded](#) the April 10 [announcement](#) by Attorney General Jeff Sessions that the Department of Justice was disbanding the nonpartisan National Commission on Forensic Science and returning forensic science to law enforcement control. In the same statement, Mr. Sessions suspended the department's review of closed cases for inaccurate or unsupported statements by forensic analysts, which regularly occur in fields as diverse as firearm and handwriting identification, and hair, fiber, shoe, bite mark and tire tread matching, and even fingerprinting analysis.

If all you knew about forensic science was what you saw on television, you might shrug off this news, believing that only the most sophisticated and well-researched scientific evidence is used to solve and prove crimes. But reality is different.